

**Approved 03/12/09**

**Exeter Fire District,**

**(February 12, 2009)**

**Call to Order**

**Chairman Peter Lacouture called the February meeting of the Exeter Fire District to order at 7:06pm. Present were commissioners Lacouture, Wilbur, Walker, Gallagher, Aker, Rooney and Nievera. Ms. Caito, district treasurer, was also present. There were 8 members of the public in attendance.**

**Mr. Lacouture requested that all present observe a moment of silence in memory of Elwood “Woody” Davis, president of the Exeter #1 Volunteer Fire Dept. and for Helen E. Conroy Payne, Joe Conroy’s mother.**

**Public Comment**

**There was no public comment.**

**Treasurer’s Report**

**Bank statements and corresponding reports were not available for this meeting; therefore beginning and ending balances are not reported. They will be reported at the next (03/12) meeting of the board of commissioners. Ms. Caito reports that the collection rate stands at 63.5% representing collections of \$634,472. Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Aker second) acceptance of the report of the treasurer.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

## **Previous Month's Minutes**

**Mr. Wilbur moved (Mr. Aker second) acceptance of the minutes of the January meeting. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Nievera will re-circulate these minutes and file them with the Secretary of State's office at his earliest convenience.**

## **Communications**

**Mr. Nievera reported that all operational mail has been given to the treasurer for her action. He additionally reported having received the signed and approved grant application from the State Senate Fiscal Office. He has also received the annual contact information request from the RI Ethics Commission. All requested contact information has been forwarded to the commission. Mr. Mike Cerullo has once again offered his services as moderator for the district's annual meeting to be held in April.**

## **Old Business**

**Mr. Lacouture stated his approval to the organizations for their efforts to submit budgets with the smallest possible increase in requested funding. All commissioners were in agreement with Mr. Lacouture.**

**Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Wilbur second) adopting a policy whereby an “administrative fee” would be charged to the accounts of those taxpayers sent to tax sale. This fee would reimburse the district for tax sale preparation time and be equal to the number of hours worked by the collector (on tax sale related items) multiplied by her hourly rate of pay then divided by the number of parcels sent to the tax sale. The resultant figure would be rounded to the next \$5.00 increment. After very little discussion the motion passed unanimously.**

**Ms. Caito and Mr. Nievera explained the administrative budget. After several questions concerning tax sale issues, it was decided that Mr. Lacouture would rearrange certain line items to show income and outflows as they apply to the tax sale. The Fire District Administrative budget reflects an increase of 1.7% over last year.**

**Joe Conroy (Treasurer, EVFD#1) was on hand to explain their budget. He requested that the board ask tough questions of him in preparation for the annual meeting. He gave a brief summary of his budget and answered several questions relative to training and equipment and supplies. The EVFD#1 budget request is unchanged from last year.**

**Jackie Henderson (Treasurer, EVFC#2) was on hand to answer questions relative to their budget request. There were none. Mr. Lacouture (Pres. EVFC#2) explained the large decrease in the Bldg. Mtce. line item was due to the spending of grant money awarded last year. The EVFC#2 budget request reflects a decrease of 0.5%.**

**Dennis Colacone (Treasurer, EEDC) explained that the largest portion of their budget was the second installment of their employee**

parity program. Employees will receive a 9% increase in salary but will be required to pay 10% of their health care premiums. This will net employees, on the average, slightly less than \$600 annually. The EEDC budget request reflects a 2.7% increase over last year.

Tom Caito (Chief, Exeter Rescue Corps) was on hand to answer any questions concerning their budget. The majority of the discussion centered on the income/billing portion of the budget and the inability of the rescue organization to recoup any of their costs on medical runs to the Exeter Job Corps site, as well as the Phoenix House drug treatment facility. Residents/clients of both facilities are considered town residents and very few are insured. Chief Curry, EVFD#1, voiced his frustration with the number of false alarm runs to the Job Corps facility with no avenue for reimbursement. Mr. Aker inquired as to the feasibility of a town ordinance addressing this problem. He will approach the Exeter Town Council and inquire as to the possibility of such an ordinance. It was also suggested that a letter to Senator Jack Reed, who was instrumental in locating the Job Corps facility in our town, be contacted and made aware of our problem. The Exeter Rescue Corps budget request reflects a 2.2% increase over last year.

Mr. Lacouture will make the necessary corrections to the draft proposed budget and re-circulate it at his earliest convenience.

Mr. Lacouture asked Mr. Nievera whether or not the \$2500 figure for abatements will be adequate. Mr. Nievera will ask Ms. McMahon and have the necessary information for the budget hearing next week.

Mr. Nievera inquired as to the possibility of decreasing the payment

to the reserve fund line item by the amount surplus at the end of the last FY. Mr. Walker stated that due to the partial payment to the organizations and the \$22K owed to them, it would not be possible this year.

Mr. Wilbur moved (Mr. Aker second) decreasing by \$5K, due to the current economic environment, the payment to the reserve fund for the next FY. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Nievera stated that he did not have a delinquent report since the meeting was in the middle of a collection period. The results are too misleading. He will attempt to circulate a report in time for the March meeting.

## **New Business**

Due to the power outage on the west side of town the meeting was adjourned early. There was no new business discussed.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Exeter Fire District Board of Commissioners will be the annual budget hearing and will be held on Thursday, February 19th at the Exeter Public Library. The meeting will be held in the program room and will begin at 7:00pm.

## **Adjournment**

**Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Gallagher second) adjournment at 8:45pm.  
The motion carried unanimously.**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Bill Nievera, Clerk  
Exeter Fire District**